

**ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಕೆ. ನಾಯ್ಕರ** — ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಅವರ ಮೊದಲನೇ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರಿನ ಸ್ಕೀಮ್‌ನ ಕೆಲವು ಇಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿ, ನಾನು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದನ್ನು ಸಾಧುವಾದುದಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಕೆಲವು ಟೌನ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಿನಿಮಂ 10 ಗ್ಯಾಲನ್ ಪರ್ ಕ್ಯಾಪಿಟಾ ಪರ್ ಡೇ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿದ್ದೇವೆ. ಹೀಗೆ ನೀರು ಕುಡಿಯಲಿಕ್ಕೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೊಡುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನ ಮಾಡಿದ್ದೇವೆ ಅಂದಮೇಲೆ 14.5 ಗ್ಯಾಲನ್ ಅಂದರೆ ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗಿಂತ ಈ ಟೌನ್‌ನವರಿಗೆ 4.5 ಗ್ಯಾಲನ್ ನೀರು ಹೆಚ್ಚು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈಗ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಸಲಹೆಯಂತೆ 25 ಗ್ಯಾಲನ್ ನೀರನ್ನು ಪರ್ ಕ್ಯಾಪಿಟಾ ಕೊಟ್ಟರೆ ಅಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಸರಿ ಹೋಗುತ್ತದೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ, ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಂಡರ್ ಗ್ರೌಂಡ್ ವರ್ಕ್ಸ್ ಅದರ ಸುತ್ತ ನಡೆಯಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಇದು ಸಾಧುವಾದುದಲ್ಲ ಎಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಹೇಳುವುದು ಸರಿಯಲ್ಲ. ಆ ಕೆರೆಯಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಗೆ ಸಪ್ಲೈ ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಹೇಳಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕಾಂಪೌ ಹೆನ್ಸಿವ್ ಪಾಟರ್ ಸಪ್ಲೈ ಸ್ಕೀಂ ಎಂದು 15.75 ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂದಾಜಿನ ಒಂದು ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಿಪೇರ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಬೇಕೆಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ. ಅದರ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇನೆ.

**ಶ್ರೀ ಎ. ನಂಜಪ್ಪ** — ಈ ಯೋಜನೆಯನ್ನು ಇನ್ನೆಷ್ಟು ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಷ್ಟು ಜಾಗೃತರಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಡುತ್ತೀರಿ ?

**ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಕೆ. ನಾಯ್ಕರ** — ಈಗಲೇ ಅದರ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ಹೇಳುವ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಯೇನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ.

*re : (iv) Stoppage of Old age Pensions in Gulbarga District.*

**SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR (Kalgai)** — I call the attention of the Minister for Finance to the hardship caused to some of the old persons due to stoppage of old age pensions in Gulbarga District in general and Chitapur in particular.

**SRI M. Y. GHORPADE (Minister for Finance).** — Sir, I wish to make the following statement :—

1. The Calling Attention Notice has referred to the scare caused to some of the old age pensioners due to the stopping of their pensions as a consequence of a verification drive taken up in Gulbarga District in general and Chittapur Taluk in particular.

2. The old age pensions which have been sanctioned are fairly large in number. In the State the total number of old age pensions sanctioned upto end of January 1977 is 1,91,204, while in Gulbarga District, the number is 12,837 as on 31st March 1977. The rules governing the sanction of old age pensions lay down certain systems for scrutiny of the applications, verification of the facts mentioned in the applications and also for review of cases sanctioned. These rules are oriented to ensure that while all genuine cases are sanctioned, advantage is not taken of the system by those who are not entitled to the benefits conferred by the old age pensions scheme. While the rules specify that all applications should be disposed of expeditiously and that delays are avoided in verification and

sanction, it will be appreciated that it is equally necessary to lay down a system of verification of cases already sanctioned. The verification is meant to find out whether the pensioners are still alive and whether they are receiving the pensions regularly. It is also meant to weed out the cases where sanctions have been given wrongly. It is on the basis of these instructions that test checks are carried out by Tahsildars and Assistant Commissioners. The Assistant Commissioners have the responsibility of conducting verifications of at least five per cent of the cases sanctioned more than a year prior to the date of the verification and we have recently asked them to conduct test checks of large numbers to ensure that the conditions for eligibility are fulfilled in all cases. In order to ensure that there is no cancellation which is improper, Assistant Commissioners have, in fact, been asked to send reports indicating the details of the cases of test check and the action taken by them to the Deputy Commissioners, who will scrutinise such reports for corrective action, if necessary.

3. In Chittapur Taluk itself 71 cases of sanctioned old age pensions were cancelled while in Chincholi Taluk 64 such pensions and in Shorapur Taluk 21 such pensions were cancelled. No pension cases have been cancelled in the remaining taluks of Gulbarga District.

4. The cancellations of pensions in these cases need not give rise to any apprehension. In case any person whose pension has been cancelled feels that the matter requires reconsideration, he may represent the facts to the Deputy Commissioner, who doubtless will look into the matter and take necessary action under the rules. The intention is clearly to ensure that all those eligible to the pension receive it. Therefore, even where cancellations have been made, there need be no apprehension that matters will not be looked into, provided the case is one which falls within the conditions laid down for the grant of pensions. The provision for verification and cancellation in the system of old age pensions is only to ensure that advantage of a social benefit scheme is not taken by those who are not eligible for such benefits, thus depriving others of the benefits to which they are entitled. In implementing this scheme, a humanitarian and reasonable view is always taken within the frame work of the rules and it is only in blatant and deliberate cases of misuse that action will be taken. Officers who implement the schemes have been vested with full discretion to look into cases sympathetically before cancellation and they will doubtless keep before themselves the intention of the entire programme before they arrive at a decision. I would like to reiterate that there need be no apprehension regarding harassment or improper cancellation of old age pensions,

**SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR.**—The procedure adopted for granting old-age pensions is that if it is a case of a village, the Village Panchayat get all the information and the application is sent to the Tahsildar, and the Tahsildar sends the Revenue Inspector to the village who holds 'pension-nama' in the village after ascertaining the facts, and thereafter it is submitted to the Assistant Commissioner and after verification the pension is granted. I would like to know the procedure that has been adopted for cancellation of these pensions; whether the same officer, who conducted the 'pension-nama' after verifying the facts about existence of the person, about the age and whether he holds any property or not, can give another report for cancellation of the pension? May I know whether the Government will take steps to correct these things?

**SRI M. Y. GHORPADE**—The very fact that in the process of verification some pensions have been cancelled proves that when verified it has been found that those pensions were improperly given. I may mention for the information of the hon. member and the House that in Karnataka today not less than 1,91,000 persons are receiving old-age pensions, which means nearly Rs. 8 crores are being disbursed every year towards old-age pensions. When a massive programme is in operation, it is not unlikely that sometimes pensions are improperly given. As a matter of fact, when such cases come to our notice, we have told the Assistant Commissioners that at least 5 per cent of the cases should be checked and improper pensions cancelled. At the same time, we have instructed the Assistant Commissioners to be reasonable and take humanitarian view of such cases and not to cancel pensions unless they found that there has been blatant and deliberate mis-use of this concession.

**SMT. VIJAYA RAGHAVENDRA RAO.**—If the implementation would have been just in the form of the answer furnished to the Call-attention notice, it is all right. But when we visited some villages, we found that at random some cases have been picked up by the Revenue Inspectors and given to the Assistant Commissioners and pensions have been cancelled. Will the Government look into the matter thoroughly and take action against persons who have caused such hazards?

**SRI M. Y. GHORPADE.**—I have no hesitation in assuring the hon. member that if in the process of verification the Assistant Commissioner had made any mistakes, then the Deputy Commissioner will have to look into it and correct those mistakes. As a matter of fact, the Assistant Commissioner is supposed to report to the Deputy Commissioner such cases so that the Deputy Commissioner can look into it. If the hon. members bring any instance where old-age

pension has been improperly cancelled, I will ask the Deputy Commissioner to personally verify and correct any errors that might have been made even by the Assistant Commissioner.

SRI PRABHAKAR TELKAR.—Just as in the Excise and Police departments, in order to book some cases, the Assistant Commissioner calls the Revenue Inspector to his office and asks him to book some cases, and on the basis of the Revenue Inspector's report, the Assistant Commissioner passes orders, because it is not possible for the Assistant Commissioner to look into all these cases.

SRI M. Y. GHORPADE.—Our instructions are that he himself should personally visit the village, personally meet the beneficiary and then decide whether it is proper or improper. If the Assistant Commissioner has not done that, and if he has depended on the reports of the Revenue Inspector, we will certainly not only ask the Assistant Commissioner but also the Deputy Commissioner to personally visit the villages, personally see the beneficiaries and then take a fair view.

(v) *re: Illegal practices in purchase of tyres and tubes in the K.S.R.T.C.*

SRI J. L. KABADI (Ballali).—I call the attention of the Minister for Transport and Tourism to the illegal practices in purchasing tyres and tubes in K.S.R.T.C.

SRI M. MOHAMMED ALI (Minister for Transport and Tourism).—Madam Speaker, I have called for some more information and I would like to make the statement tomorrow.

(vi) *re: Fast by Village Accountants and their grievances*

2-30 P.M.

SRI T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort).—I call the attention of the Minister for Revenue regarding the fast undertaken by the Village Accountants from 16th July 1977 because of their longfelt grievances.

SRI DEVENDRAPPA GHALAPPA (Minister of State for Land Reforms) [On behalf of the Minister for Revenue].—I wish to make the following Statement:

Different systems of Village Administrations were prevailing in various parts of Karnataka State at the time of integration. The posts of Shanbhogues, Patels and Inferior Village servants consist of hereditary as well as non-hereditary officers of various categories.

The Karnataka Village Offices Abolition Act, 1961, came into force with effect from 1st February 1963. Under Section 4 the said Act, all village offices together with incidents thereof stand abolished